

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 have been presented for examination. Of these, claims 1, 3-10 and 12-20 have been rejected. An objection, only, has been made against claims 2 and 11, with the indication that if rewritten in independent form, they would be allowed. Applicant has, accordingly, amended claims 1 and 10 to include the limitations of claims 2 and 11, respectively. Claims 2 and 11 have been canceled and claims dependent from those claims are amended to change their dependencies. Accordingly, the application now contains independent claims that have been indicated to be allowable. All dependent claims inherit this allowability. Accordingly, Applicant requests prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

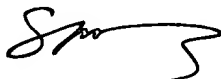
The foregoing amendment to claims 1 and 10 moots all rejections. The rejections, accordingly, will not be further treated. This should not be taken as acquiescence in the rejections, but merely as an expedient action taken to advance issuance of subject matter the Examiner concedes to be allowable. Applicant reserves the right, should it choose to do so, to file a continuation application covering any previously rejected subject matter.

In addition to the above-identified discussed amendment, Applicant has removed from the method claims all reference to "steps" in order to avoid any suggestion that any such claim or limitation thereof should be construed in accordance with the sixth paragraph of Section 112.

Conclusion

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to deposit account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,



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